

COUNTRY DATA: Pakistan: Information from the CIA World Factbook

INTRODUCTION

The Indus Valley civilization, one of the oldest in the world and dating back at least 5,000 years, spread over much of what is presently Pakistan. During the second millennium B.C., remnants of this culture fused with the migrating Indo-Aryan peoples. The area underwent successive invasions in subsequent centuries from the Persians, Greeks, Scythians, Arabs (who brought Islam), Afghans, and Turks. The Mughal Empire flourished in the 16th and 17th centuries; the British came to dominate the region in the 18th century. The separation in 1947 of British India into the Muslim state of Pakistan (with West and East sections) and largely Hindu India was never satisfactorily resolved, and India and Pakistan fought two wars - in 1947-48 and 1965 - over the disputed Kashmir territory. A third war between these countries in 1971 - in which India capitalized on Islamabad's marginalization of Bengalis in Pakistani politics - resulted in East Pakistan becoming the separate nation of Bangladesh. In response to Indian nuclear weapons testing, Pakistan conducted its own tests in 1998. India-Pakistan relations have been rocky since the November 2008 Mumbai attacks, but both countries are taking small steps to put relations back on track. In February 2008, Pakistan held parliamentary elections and in September 2008, after the resignation of former President MUSHARRAF, elected Asif Ali ZARDARI to the presidency. Pakistani government and military leaders are struggling to control domestic insurgents, many of whom are located in the tribal areas adjacent to the border with Afghanistan.

GEOGRAPHY

Location	Southern Asia, bordering the Arabian Sea, between India on the east and Iran and Afghanistan on the west and China in the north.
Area	total: 796,095 sq km country comparison to the world: <u>36</u> land: 770,875 sq km water: 25,220 sq km
Climate	mostly hot, dry desert; temperate in northwest; arctic in north
Natural Resources	land, extensive natural gas reserves, limited petroleum, poor quality coal, iron ore, copper, salt, limestone
Total Renewable Water Resources	233.8 cu km (2003)
Freshwater Withdrawal	total: 169.39 cu km/yr (2%/2%/96%) per capita: 1,072 cu m/yr (2000)

Natural Hazards	frequent earthquakes, occasionally severe especially in north and west; flooding along the Indus after heavy rains (July and August)
Environmental Issues	water pollution from raw sewage, industrial wastes, and agricultural runoff; limited natural fresh water resources; most of the population does not have access to potable water; deforestation; soil erosion; desertification.
PEOPLE	
Population	187,342,721 (July 2011 est.)
Ethnic Groups	Punjabi 44.68%, Pashtun (Pathan) 15.42%, Sindhi 14.1%, Sariaki 8.38%, Muhajirs 7.57%, Balochi 3.57%, other 6.28%
Religions	Muslim 95% (Sunni 75%, Shia 20%), other (includes Christian and Hindu) 5%
Languages	Punjabi 48%, Sindhi 12%, Siraiki (a Punjabi variant) 10%, Pashtu 8%, Urdu (official) 8%, Balochi 3%, Hindko 2%, Brahui 1%, English (official; lingua franca of Pakistani elite and most government ministries), Burushaski, and other 8%
Literacy Rate	definition: age 15 and over can read and write total population: 49.9% male: 63% female: 36% (2005 est.)
Major Infectious Diseases	degree of risk: high food or waterborne diseases: bacterial diarrhea, hepatitis A and E, and typhoid fever vectorborne diseases: dengue fever and malaria animal contact disease: rabies note: highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza has been identified in this country; it poses a negligible risk with extremely rare cases possible among US citizens who have close contact with birds (2009)
GOVERNMENT	
Type	federal republic
Independence	14 August 1947 (from British India)
Constitution	12 April 1973; suspended 5 July 1977, restored 30 December 1985; suspended 15 October 1999, restored in stages in 2002; amended 31 December 2003; suspended 3 November 2007; restored on 15 December 2007; amended 19 April 2010
Legal System	based on English common law with provisions to accommodate Pakistan's status as an Islamic state; accepts compulsory ICJ jurisdiction with reservations
ECONOMY	

Agricultural Products	cotton, wheat, rice, sugarcane, fruits, vegetables; milk, beef, mutton, egg
Industries	textiles and apparel, food processing, pharmaceuticals, construction materials, paper products, fertilizer, shrimp
Import commodities	petroleum, petroleum products, machinery, plastics, transportation equipment, edible oils, paper and paperboard, iron and steel, tea
Import Partners	China 15.35%, Saudi Arabia 10.54%, UAE 9.8%, US 4.81%, Kuwait 4.73%, Malaysia 4.43%, India 4.02% (2009)
Export Commodities	textiles (garments, bed linen, cotton cloth, yarn), rice, leather goods, sports goods, chemicals, manufactures, carpets and rugs
Export Partners	US 15.87%, UAE 12.35%, Afghanistan 8.48%, UK 4.7%, China 4.44% (2009)
Per Capita GDP	\$2,400 (2010 est.)
Population below poverty line	24% (FY05/06 est.)

*CITATIONS: All information included above is extracted from the CIA World Factbook except where noted.